Dewan's reply.—I am unable to give any reply with regard to *kudivila* and other matters, as so many records have to be looked into and as you have not given me previous notice.

In regard to the works connected with the fresh water channel, the Chief Engineer has been instructed to complete them early.

32. Supply of salt for the Muvattupuzha taluk from the Munambam depot instead of from the Alleppey Port Salt depot as at present.

Mr. J. Padmanabha Kammatti (Member, Muvattupuzha Taluk) said that, as the result of a conversation he had with the Excise Commissioner on the subject of his representation, the latter had agreed to consider his request favourably, and that, therefore, he did not wish to press his request at the Assembly.

33. Evils arising from the use of intoxicants and the desirability of Government adopting remedial measures.

Mr. R. Raman Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) stated that, although he had made representations on that very subject in some previous sessions of the Assembly, the only step taken by the Government in the interests of temperance was to change the hours of the sale of liquors from 6 A. M. to 9 P. M. to 6 A. M. to 8 P. M.

The Member pointed out that all over the world the Governments were co-operating with the people in their attempt to put down the drink evil and said that he was gratified to know that the Travancore Government also realised that the use of intoxicants would undermine the moral and material welfare of the people and that their avowed policy was based upon such realisation. Certain activities of the Government, however, had led the people to doubt whether the Government were not doing just the reverse of what they declared it to be their policy in that matter. The Member referred to the following by way of illustrations :—

(1) The Ezhava leaders of the anti-tapping movement were being harassed by the Government and steps were being taken to train men of other classes in the profession of tapping.

(2) The men who tried to prevent the sale of abkari shops were being proceeded against under Section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code and confidential orders were being issued to the Magistrates to see that such cases were disposed of expeditiously.

(3) Mr. Madhavan, a Vakil of the Haripad Munsiff's Court, was arrested and prosecuted for preaching temperance.

(4) Mr. Kesavan, an Inspector of the Excise Department, was placed on special duty to conduct the auction sale of abkari shops.

The Member thought that it was the duty of the Government to associate themselves with all movements to suppress the drink evil. He quoted the example of America where absolute prohibition was said to prevail and also some of the Indian States whose Governments were co-operating with the people in their fight against the demon of drink. A similar duty was cast upon the Travancore Government also and the Member urged the adoption of the necessary measures for bringing about temperance among the people. The apprehension that prohibition would cause a fall in the State revenue could not be entertained in the light of the fact that a sober population which did not waste its earnings would be better able to stand the strain of heavier taxation.

The Member then suggested the adoption of the following measures:—

(1) the non-intervention of the Government in the anti-tapping movement headed by Ezhavas ;

(2) the administration of the Excise Department on lines calculated to reduce the sale of intoxicants, including not only toddy and arrack, but also opium and ganja ;

(3) the early adoption of the policy of "local option" by Municipalities ;

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